

Work force development, survival and growth key issues for college

Shelton State had an interesting way of marking the 30th anniversary of its chartering as a community college. Instead of wallowing in nostalgia, the college concentrated on a discussion of its mission and its prospects in these perilous economic times.

Which is not to say that there weren't some fun events along the way, beginning with the first one on Wednesday, April 1.

A Career Fair was held

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Charter Day leads to reflections



Shelton State President Mark Heinrich convenes the Friday morning session of the Charter Day celebration. He is flanked by the speakers of the day Phil Poole, Alabama state senator; Bradley Byrne, chancellor of the community college system; Dr. Frank Costanzo, superintendent of the Tuscaloosa County School System and Terry Waters, Alabama Power vice president.

Literacy spotlighted during festivities

One of the more surprising and interesting discussions during the 30th anniversary of Shelton State as a full-fledged community college was the issue of literacy in West Alabama.



Johnnie Aycock, the director of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama has taken on the issue as central for developing the business prospects of the area.

Aycock regaled the crowd with some surprising statistics: 40 million people in the United States are functionally illiterate—about 22 percent of the population; 23 percent in Tuscaloosa County, 35 percent in Pickens, 42 percent in Hale, and a whopping 51 percent in Greene.

It is the "phantom issue," Aycock contended, because no one wants to admit it or talk about it. "If we don't address the issue of literacy, we will not build quality work-force capacity," Aycock said.

Summer, err, fun in your future?

By the Courier Staff

From the first day of class in the fall to the last day of classes in the spring, summer can seem like an oasis to any college student.

With the big e-word, economy, on everyone's mind, it is vital to know that the summer months can be both an enjoyable and a productive way to contribute to your college goals.

Thousands of students plan to attend the Bonnaroo Festival in Manchester, Tenn., this summer.



Most students try to avoid the stress of the school year during their summer vacation. But the older we get, we realize that summer is not always stress free. With jobs, relationships, money, and even summer school, it is important to utilize the summer and still

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Inside

The Courier

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from 9 a.m. to noon. Students visited the booths of 50 different companies. Also, every hour beginning at 9 a.m., free T-shirts were given away by tossing them from the second floor to participants on the main floor in the atrium.

From 11 a.m.-noon a reception was held honoring recently retired state board member Sandra Ray and newly elected Garry Warren in the Rehearsal Hall next to the theatre.

At 11:30 President Mark Heinrich, along with Humphrey Lee, president of Muscle Shoals, and Anne McNutt of Beville State, made a special presentation to Ray and welcomed Warren aboard.

Then at 1 p.m. in the Bean-Brown Theatre, a presentation "The Challenge of Expanding Workforce Training Opportunities in Alabama and the Nation" was made by Dr. Stephen Katsinas with responders Chamber of Commerce leader Johnnie Aycock and businessman Charles Storey. Katsinas, an education professor, gave a quite scholarly and technical presentation which made the point, among many others, that Shelton is quite a young and growing institution still finding its role in the community.

Aycock stressed the "community" in the college's name, pointing out that "employees don't always

know how to run communities" so it's up to the people who live there to be very involved.

Storey's reaction was the most down-to-earth of all. In a bit of word play he philosophized on the "unity" that is part of the community college.

The Charter Celebration event Thursday was held at the C.A. Fredd Campus, beginning at 11 a.m.

Aycock spoke on literacy, presenting some surprising—perhaps shocking—statistics, such as that 23 percent of adults in Tuscaloosa County are functionally illiterate, with the numbers ballooning to 35 percent in Pickens County and 51 percent in Greene.

Following his presentation there was a campus-wide open house and reception. All buildings were open to the public for tours, including refreshments in the cafeteria.

Friday's event featured a keynote presentation by Alabama College System Chancellor Bradley R. Byrne, with an introduction by Alabama Senator Phil Poole "How Education Will Meet Future Workforce Demands."

Responses were made by Dr. Frank Costanzo, superintendent of the Tuscaloosa County School System, and Terry Waters, Alabama Power vice resident.

Shelton State President, Dr. Mark Heinrich also unveiled "Shelton 2020: Realizing Our Vision," the strategic plan for the College



(Clockwise from top) The Tuscaloosa Police Department brought the heavy hardware to the Job Fair; state School Board member Garry Warren chats with Work Force Development's Mike Fields; on the Fredd campus President Heinrich has a word with former Fredd President Norman Cephus; Sandra Ray received kudos from three college presidents: Humphrey Lee of Northwest-Shoals, Mark Heinrich of Shelton and Anne McNutt of Beville State; Dr. Graham Hatcher introduces the workforce panel of Johnnie Aycock, Charles Storey and Dr. Stephen Katsinas; some 50 companies displayed at the Job Fair as part of the Charter Day festivities.

Brewer State Community College. What has emerged over the last 30 years is an outstanding two-year educational institution dedicated to providing exceptional learning.

Shelton now serves students of all ages while significantly impacting West Alabama through initiatives in workforce development, the arts, adult education and much more.

through 2020.

Shelton State can trace its historical roots back over half a century to 1952 when it was known as the J.P. Shelton Trade School.

In 1979 the Alabama State Board of Education established Shelton State Community College by combining the trade school with the Tuscaloosa branch of

The *Shelton State Courier* is brought to its readers by the academic and extracurricular programs of Shelton State Community College.

Shelton State Courier

Staff Writers
Members of
MCM-102 Class

Publisher
Dr. Jim Kenny

The *Shelton State Courier* is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among its functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working

with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The *Courier* is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

PTK officers round out their year in Texas

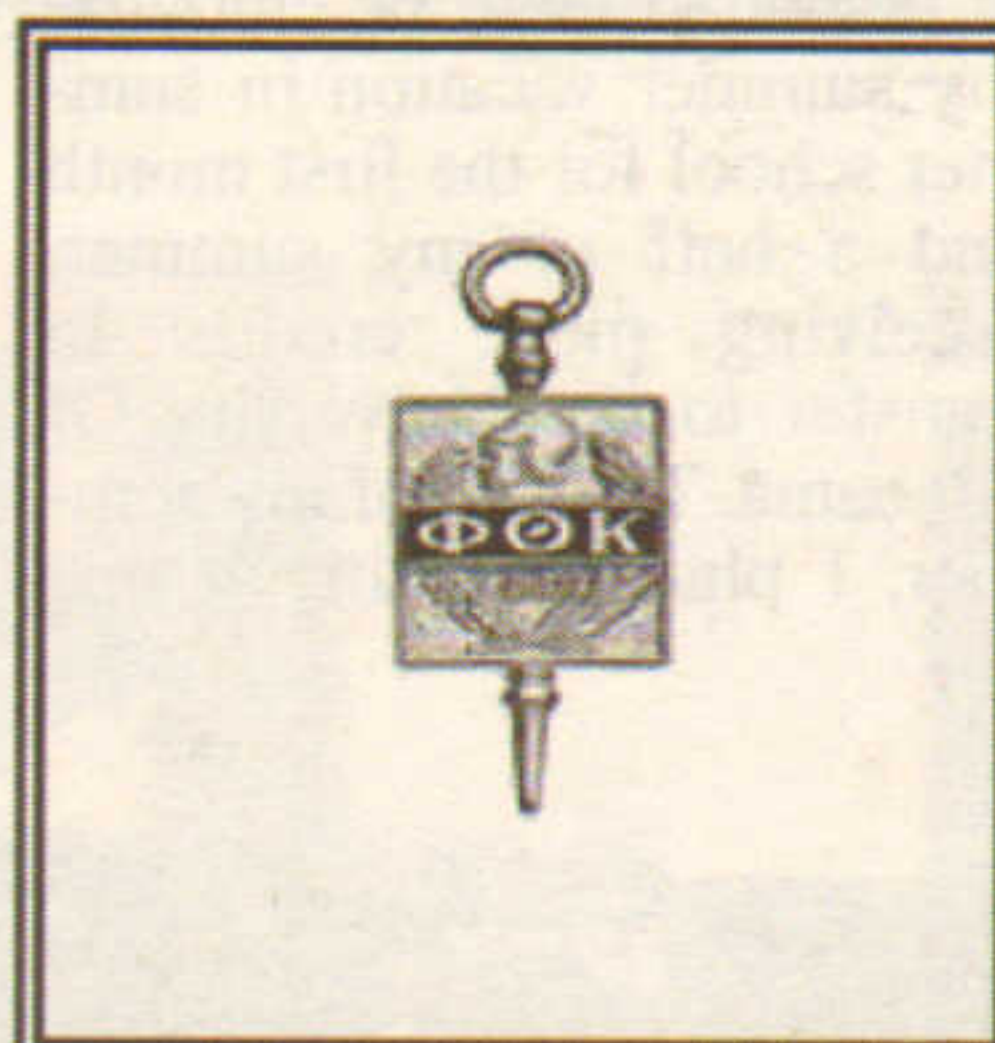
By Victoria Corley

Officers of Shelton State's Phi Theta Kappa have had a year of growing; all of their growing lead them to a final shebang in Grapevine, Texas.

From April 14 to April 18, five officers from Shelton State reaped the rewards of a long year. For these officers,

General Session of the 2008 International Convention in Grapevine Texas, where all attendees were greeted by the mayor of Grapevine, William Tate. The convention was held at the Gaylord Texan. The hotel was large and glitzy just as the convention was.

The first general session and opening ceremonies was an electric meeting of 3,500



speakers for this important week were Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., environmental activist and attorney, and Dr. Fareed Zakaria, editor of *Newsweek International* and CNN host. Both speakers were amazing and gave all the PTK members at the convention a glimpse of the future, while filling us with hope for our country, a country that seems perennially in danger of vanishing behind a wall of corruption.

Kennedy gave a keynote speech on the roles that government, in the U.S. and globally, should play in environmental solutions. Also, he lectured on what individuals and civic groups can do immediately and long-term to help the environment. The speech from Kennedy was both inspirational and informative.

Brittany Lee, 2009-2010 Shelton State Phi Theta Kappa officer, said, "He really did inspire me to be more aware of the way I live each day and all of the resources that I waste every day."

The second speaker during the convention, Fareed Zakaria, spoke about globalization. Zakaria began by asking all attendees two imperative questions: "To what extent is America's power tied to its affluence? How will the current economic crisis affect the nation's place as the world's strongest economy?"

With a room full of community college scholars, Zakaria triggered a million thoughts in everyone's mind. He spoke on the influence that countries like China and India are having on our econ-

omy. His entire speech was closely related to the 2008 Honors Topic, The Paradox of Affluence. It was truly refreshing to hear someone speak about our country with such optimism. His comments seemed like important teachings that we all need but do not get in school or from the media.

Although the speakers were an important part of the convention, the final night of the convention was the most rewarding.

On this last night, everyone was dressed to a tee and seemed to be very nervous. The Awards Gala at the International Convention is the one night that all Officers of Phi Theta Kappa look forward to from the very beginning of their PTK journey. This year, the Shelton State

organization that I was involved in," said Grimes, "It was amazing when I first heard our region called to receive the award, but once I got on stage, I was sad. I knew that this chapter in my life was over and I was going to miss it."

Not only was someone in our chapter honored as part of the regional team, but one of our advisors was honored with a very special award.

Julia Speights, Phi Theta Kappa advisor for Shelton State, received a "Paragon Award for New Advisors." Speights was not able to be present at the convention, but the other members of the chapter eagerly accepted the prestigious award on her behalf.

All of the officers that attended from Shelton State



While attending the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Grapevine, Texas, Shelton State representatives Justin Grimes, Brittany Lee, Victoria Corley, and Anne Shows were able to take in the sights at the Fort Worth Stock Yards.

this was a time of fear, excitement, and tears. For some this was just the beginning of a new chapter in their journey of community college, and for the others, it was an end to their dedication to the Phi Theta Kappa organization at Shelton State.

This week of mixed emotions began at the First

overly enthused members of Phi Theta Kappa. The night began by the presentation of colors by the Irving High School Marine Corps JROTC Drill Team. This was a special night that set the mood for the rest of the convention.

During the second day of the 2008 International Convention, all attendees were honored to hear from the Keep America Beautiful Organization. Sue Smith, Director of Education and Training, rewarded PTK members for their tremendous efforts all around the county to keep our land beautiful.

Keynote



The Shelton contingent caucuses.



Getting ready to represent their state at the International Phi Theta Kappa convention are (L-R) Dr. Graham Hatcher, Brittany Lee, Anne Shows, Justin Grimes and Victoria Corley. They were all together at the opening ceremonies of the Convention

Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was honored to receive a few special awards.

That night, the Alabama Region of Phi Theta Kappa received the "Most Distinguished Officer Team." This is important to our chapter at Shelton State, because the Alabama Regional President is Justin Grimes, the chapter president for Shelton State's Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

"I have never felt so proud of myself and the

agreed that there could not be a better end to an amazing year. For the old officers leaving Shelton State, it was a fun but somber time.

Through Phi Theta Kappa, I have experienced many things that have forced me to grow as a person and a student. As an attendee to the 2009 International Convention, I feel privileged to have been a part of this wonderful honor society.

Summer

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have fun.

Summer plans can include study, travel, work, volunteerism, vacation—or a combination of each. Yes, it is possible to do all of these things and still deal with all of the other stressors that come with attending college.

First, find a great job. This step is important to enjoying summer. When you want to have fun, you have to have money. Try to find a good job near campus that offers opportunities to meet new people and network with others. Another idea for summer is to head home and find a job. Working at home could be easier and allow you to save money for the next semester.

Summer jobs do not have to be a hassle; you can make your job fun by doing something that you enjoy doing.

Kelly Logan, a student at Shelton State, will be working at Winn-Dixie this summer while attending classes. When asked if she was looking forward to her job, she said “yes, I work as a pharmacy technician and I want to be nurses one day so I enjoy what I do.”

If you're lucky and do not have to get a job for the summer, volunteering is a good way to spend your time. You can volunteer in your local community or somewhere you have never been.

TeensHeakth.org details that, “Volunteering helps people feel they make a difference—that they do have the power to change things for the better. When people depend on you, it can change the way you look at yourself.”

Volunteering is the optimal way of utilizing your summer; you get to help others, while possible meeting people that may lead you to future jobs or internships.

If your main focus is on school or your future career, take the time in the summer to do research or take extra classes in your field of study. Or if you are not sure what you want to do in the future, use the time you have to take extra classes to decide if there is something different you would like to be doing.

Finally, if you are really lucky and have the time and funds to do so, travel the

world.

On top of being a fantastic experience, it can also connect to your academic course of study.

Even with the limitations we have as college students, we also have many opportunities that are right at our fingertips. Don't let the stress of a summer job or classes discourage you from having a

the same time. It makes life so much harder.”

Mass communication student Chelsea R. Figueroa said, “I personally will be enjoying my summer vacation in summer school for the first month and a half of my summer, receiving more credits to transfer to the University Of Alabama. The rest of my summer, I plan on taking it one

Ashley M. Anthis said, “I, for one, have plans to make short distance road trips to visit old friends. I also plan to spend a great part of my summer packing to move to Madison, Ala. so that I can be closer to my family. I call this ‘summer on a budget.’”

While some move during the summer, make small road trips, or have nice family vacations, others have a different summer agenda. Some people are being shown how to get one foot in the door, this summer, in the world of business.

Nick Mills, sophomore at Shelton, has big plans of moving to Little Rock, Ark., this summer.

“I'm moving for the experience and to sell Cutco, the best kitchen products in the world,” says Mills. The experience will benefit him in many ways, Mills goes on to say. “I will gain resume experience, make tons of money, and develop new relationships.” Mills is excited for his summer adventure that awaits him and he is wished the best of luck.

If you are planning to travel this summer,

the Bureau of Transportation Statistics reports that, due to fewer flights and passengers, on-time arrival rates are up, while flight cancellations, passenger complaints and lost baggage are down.

Summer 2009 is proving to be very versatile in terms of summer travel and many people seem to be well underway with their plans. This summer is looking to be the summer of opportunities. Even if you aren't planning on doing any summer travel, at least take time to kick back, relax, and enjoy some fun in the sun.

The summer is approaching fast and students are anxious to unfold their summer

plans. However, what are some of the plans of these ready students?

Shelton student Joshua Moulton said, “I, have decided to take a single summer class to help move my credit hours up some. However, I also plan to go on a European excursion for about a week.

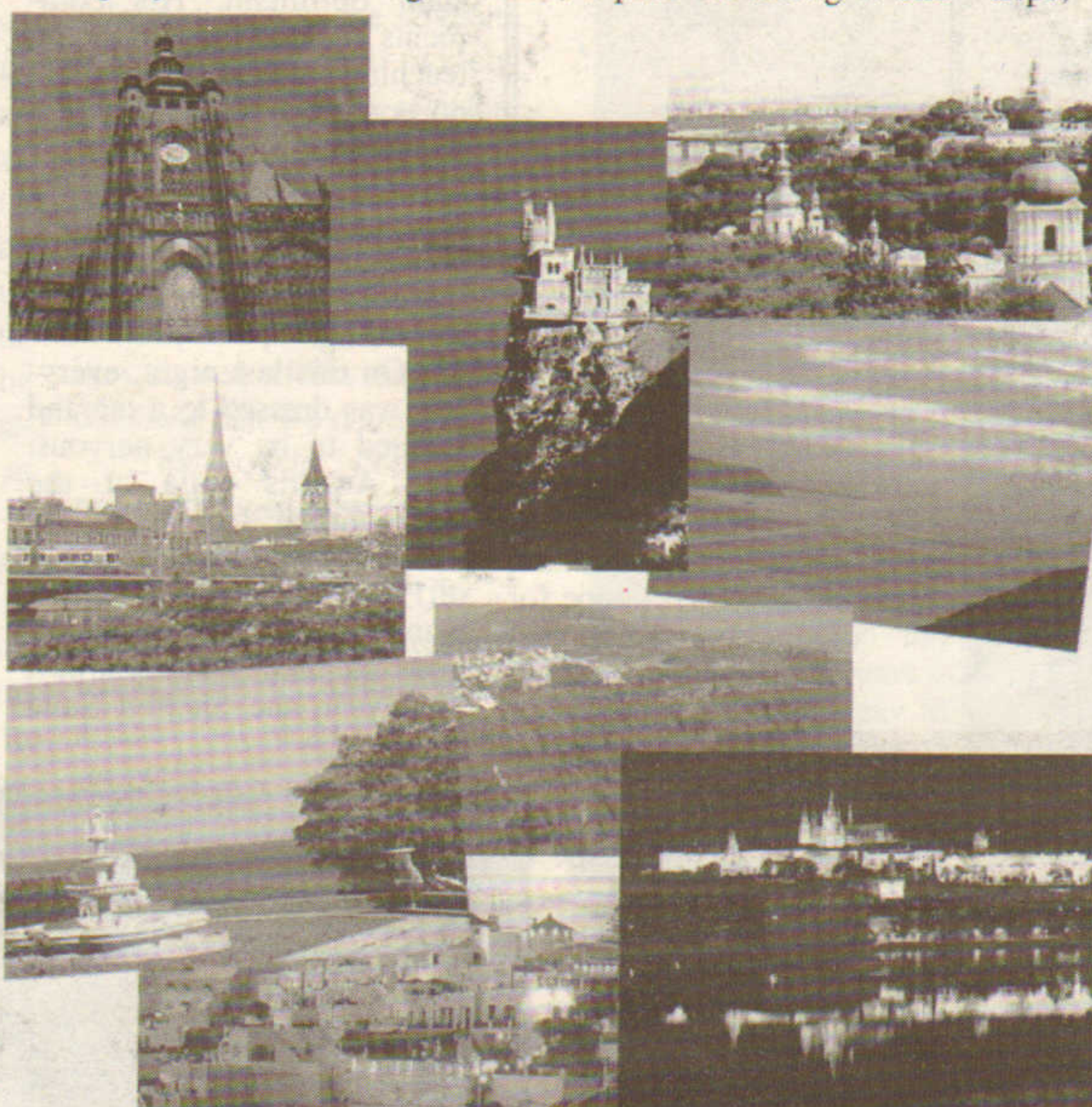
“I believe I will go to Rome with my girlfriend, but we haven't decided yet.

David Torres in the library at Shelton State, said he was going to a music festival known as “Bonnaroo.” Torres detailed that the festival would be located in Manchester, Tenn., June 11-14 and include heavy partying with people from all over the world. Torres listed some of the most famous bands playing at the revenue including Modest Mouse, Tv on the Radio, The Dillinger Escape Plan, John Mayer, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and The Mars Volta.

The web site Students.gov reported that the national college enrollment drops by more than 50%. In this minority is sophomore at Shelton State, Brittany Barton. Barton is taking classes at the University of West Alabama this summer.

Although there can be many reasons to take classes during the summer like shorter classes, and the availability of classes, Barton said “UWA has some classes that Shelton State doesn't, and I hope to take advantage of that.”

So while some students take a break from school, they should remember that their friends are still doing book in some dark un-fun classroom. :^)



Some lucky students say they have the wherewithal to visit many of the sites of Europe this summer.

productive and enjoyable summer. Remember that this is the time of our lives to discover who we are and what we want to do in the future.

A great way some students spend their summer vacation is doing an internship. Although most internships do not pay, the experience is well worth it upon graduating.

Other students may spend their summer back in their home spending time with their family and friends and working back in their hometown. Although working during the summer doesn't sound fun at all, it's a great way to save your money. Jenny Leader, a freshman at Shelton State says, “I would rather work during summer vacation, because I don't want to have to balance school and work at

day at a time. I want to something somewhat adventurous and try new things with my best friends. Summer has a lot to offer, and I plan on taking full advantage of all the possibilities.”

With hotel rates softening and gas prices at their lowest level in four years, 2009 will be “the year of travel deals,” predicts Genevieve Shaw Brown, senior editor of Travelocity. Even though travel is becoming more affordable, more people are expected to stay home due to the recession. The Travel Industry Association predicts a 1.3 percent drop in 2009 leisure travel.

While families may be flocking to the beach or the mountains this summer, college students with little income have different plans.



Some students are excited by the prospect of selling Cutco Knives this summer.

Shel-Shots



Cosmetology students Caitlin Beynon (L) and Sherikia Davis hold their prizes for taking the top spots in the First-Semester After-5 Style contest held every year in Ruth Watts's class.



Dr. Alan Blackshear and the Shelton Jazz Ensemble play their last concert of the school year in the Bean-Brown Theatre at Shelton State.



Dr. Milady Murphy of the Wellness Center does what she does best: cajole people into better health; this time it was at a Health Walk initiative held during the lunch hour at the college.



The new state-of-the-art medical simulator i-stan is serious business but not when you're showing off his amazing life-like features to an appreciative audience in the Nursing Department.



With a bit of help from the theatre Department, the Shelton State team won the best theme prize during the annual Men Who Cook FOCUS on Senior Citizens fund-raiser held at the college.

Kathryn Owens, a student from Huntsville, participates in the Shelton Cares food drive being conducted in the college atrium until April 30.



Infrastructure

(A series about how the college is put together)

By Byron Abston

The Office of Admissions and Records serves as the hub of many services that the College provides its students. The office is responsible for collecting, organizing, and storing all students' educational records. All of the students' records are stored in the College's student information system referred to as APECS.

The Admissions office serves every student in some way throughout their entire academic career while attending Shelton State. In most cases, our staff members are the first point of contact that the students have with the college. Moreover, this is the first step in starting student's educational experiences whereby students submit an application for admission. We offer four convenient methods for submitting an application, online via the internet, in person, by mail, and by fax. After the students complete their application information, we interact indirectly once again when the

students register for classes online. Our office enters and maintains all of the course information into the student information system which the students use to register for classes. Once classes begin, we may see them if they withdraw from classes and then at the end of the semester they see the grades they earned within the grade database that we maintain.

This cycle continues until the student leaves Shelton to pursue their continued studies or look for a job. At this point the student will contact our office for us to send out an official transcript.

APECS (Student Information System)

During the spring 2007 semester, the college's student information system which houses student education records was updated from a DOS-based system (old apecs) to a web-based system (apecs.net).

Although there were many conversion problems, as in any conversion like this, the new upgrade did provide



Standing by ready to serve the needs of the students is the staff of Admissions and Records at Shelton. These include (l-r) Kim Hallman, Loretta Jones, Carolyn Beckman, Sharon Chastine, Elaine Bobo, Cindy Hester, Lisa Riddle and Byron Abston. Not pictured is Khristy Large.

a more accessible and efficient manner to organize educational records.

The upgrade also provided the college with more bandwidth to provide essentially an unlimited number of students to access their accounts at the same time. Prior to the upgrade, only approximately 20 students at one time could access their online student account.

The summer 2007 semester was the first web registration with the apecs.net system.

For the summer 2008 registration, we were able to extend web registration through on-site and through

drop/add for the first time.

This provided the students with the convenience of modifying their schedules away from campus. The portal will also remain open to allow students to withdraw from classes through the designated last day to withdraw. This also provides the student with the convenience of not having to come to campus to process the withdrawal.

On-site Registration

On-site registration has steadily been improved and made more efficient since the spring 2007 semester.

We have evolved from a

manual-driven process to a more efficient electronic process. Prior to this change, students were required to obtain a copy of their transcript and current schedule prior to meeting with an advisor in the college's atrium area. Then, advisors were given paper open class lists, which were immediately outdated, to assist the student in selecting available courses.

At that point students would write down their selected classes, then go to the Office of Admissions & Records and have the clerks input their class schedule into the student information system.



Sharon Chastine must often scurry back and forth between her secretary's desk and an upfront post where she helps the students.

Office of Admissions and Records and the Registrar's Office

In many cases the class would be closed. If so, the student had to go back out to meet with an advisor again. This may occur over and over depending on the availability of the courses.



That process required the student move from place to place to register for classes and required the faculty to advise from printed materials that may not have been accurate. Also, more paper was

wasted by printing multiple copies of the open class list, students using registration forms, and printing transcripts and schedules for advisement.

Currently, we have moved all registration activities to a computer lab in which advisors sit along with the students and advise and register for classes in real time. There is no paper involved.

The advisor and student can see what classes are available and immediately register for them. This also allows the students to become familiar with the online registration portal so that they can register themselves more conveniently on the web for subsequent semesters. The advisors and the students have

been very pleased with this improved process.

START UP Registration (Freshmen Orientation)

The START UP registration process for first-time

Shelton students has been improved as well by implementing the same process as stated above for on-site registration.

Online Application

Prior to the summer 2007 semester, students were only able to submit basic demographic application information over the web. This required admissions clerks to rely on students to enter term-related data, such as program of study and student status.

This method did not provide accurate student term information. Students are now able to submit a complete application for admission online which requires students to submit all information that is required by postsecondary and which allows our office to correctly process the student's admission to the college.

The apecs.net system has been programmed to automatically flow information to multiple areas within the system which has eliminated the need for office staff to manually enter data during the multiple stages of processing the application information while students register for classes.

The new process has provided the admissions staff to be more efficient in processing student applications, saving processing time, providing better service to the students.

A new policy has recently been implemented by the Alabama State Board of Education that requires all new students to present a valid photo identification

prior to admission.

Transcripts

The process the Office of Admissions and Records produces transcripts has greatly improved with last year's software upgrade.

In the past, only one staff member could order and print a transcript. This process was a tedious one and was only processed once per day and students usually had to wait 48 hours to receive an official transcript.

The apecs.net system now provides the capability for any Admissions staff member to order and print a transcript for students on demand.

We are currently in the process of working with a third party vendor to allow us to send transcripts electronically via a secure network to the University of Alabama.

This will allow us to save a great deal of money on special transcript paper and postage. In addition, students will receive more efficient delivery of transcripts to UA.

The staff

I became assistant dean of Student Services and registrar during the fall of 2004, previously having taught mathematics at Shelton for four years.

The other efficient and cheerful staff members are Loretta Jones, assistant registrar; Sharon Chastine, secretary; Elaine Bobo, customer service/admissions; Carolyn Beckman, customer service/Admissions; Cindy Hester, records; Lisa Riddle, customer service/applications; Kim Hallman, customer service/applications; and Khristy Large, graduation/records.

"In our department, we work with a wonderful group that has become one big extended family," commented Chastine. "I have seen lots of changes over the years but would not trade my experience here with a job anywhere else."

I, along with all of the staff of the Office of Admissions & Records, want to ensure that we provide the best services possible for all students and staff in which we serve. If we can assist you in any way please don't hesitate to contact any of us at (205) 391-2214.



After 33 years at the college with Admissions & Records Assistant Registrar Loretta Jones is considered by most to be the living embodiment of the office.



Debbie Barton of Counseling runs into Byron Abston's office for a quick question. Abston has been the A&R director and the college's registrar for four years.

Softball team, led by two .400 hitters, heading into ACCC playoffs

The Shelton State softball program is making a final push as the state tournament goes into the final weekend of the season. This puts them



nears on May 2-5 in second in the state for winning percentage. Currently the Lady

Bucs have a record of 25-10 going into the final weekend of the season. This puts them

Shelton is led offensively by a pair of sophomores at the top of the order. Lindsey Skinner is hitting .482 in the #2 spot in the order and is followed by leadoff hitter Alex Whisner with a .407 average. Together they have scored 57 runs in 35 games. The two have been a huge part of the rebuilding of the program that was 18-31 in 2007 but improved to 35-16 in their freshman year. "Lindsey and Alex have helped bring Shelton State back into the forefront of the junior college softball community," Head Coach Buddy Boyle said. "Along with sophomores Nicole Morrison, Kayla Gordy, and Mary Ellen Postell, this bunch has performed at a high level for almost two years." Gordy last year set a Shelton record for RBI's with 44 and has driven

in 35 this year despite playing a fewer amount of games.

The pitching has been anchored by Morrison and Postell. Together they have a 22-10 record and have pitched in some big games for the Lady Bucs. Shelton ranks near the top of the Alabama Community College Conference with a team ERA of 1.88, and opposing hitters are hitting .228 against the Shelton pitching staff. "They really have done an outstanding job of keeping us in ballgames all year," Boyle said. "With our team hitting .351, the opportunity to win ballgames is often dictated by our pitchers keeping us close, and for the most part, we have capitalized on it."

The 2009 version of Shelton State softball is

hoping to keep the winning ways and keep laying the foundation for future generations of Lady Buc players. The 12 team state tournament begins May 2nd and the winner advances to the NJCAA national tournament in St. George, Utah.



The Relay for Life Team is calling on all faculty and staff to "Walk the Walk" in our fight against cancer on Friday, May 1, at Northridge High School from 6 p.m. - midnight. We count your laps as part of the event. Shelton State Community College won this event last year and would like to repeat in our efforts to beat cancer. Plus, there will be food, and as always - fellowship and fun.

We look forward to seeing you there as we walk to beat cancer.

The Who, Why and Butts of Lunch

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 2009

WHERE: Lunch will be served in the area outside the atrium (you can also pick up any BBQ Butts that were ordered)

WHAT TIME: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

HOW MUCH: \$5 for lunch

WHY: This is a Relay for Life Fundraiser - all proceeds go to Relay for Life.

Shelton Singers present their own 'Showcase'

On Thursday, April 30, the Shelton Singers will be in the spotlight at 7:30 p.m. in the Bean Brown Theatre of Shelton State Community College.

This concert is being billed as a "showcase" because Director Glinda Blackshear wanted to allow the talented students who form the choir to demonstrate their many and varied talents. The concert is free and suitable for all audiences.

The first portion of the evening will delight lovers of traditional music. The Shelton Singers will present choral music in a formal concert which will include works by Morley, Passereau, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Faure, Clausen, and Ames.

Dr. Mark Brown is the assistant director of the Singers, and Susan Goode is the accompanist.

The second portion of the program will be opera scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart. The most famous opera in the Western world, this charming story of a master who is outwitted by his servants lends itself well to the voices of young singers.

Featured in these opera scenes are Lee Johnson as Figaro, Justin Barnett as Dr. Bartolo, Karen Killion as Susanna, Alysia Nailor as Marcellina, Melissa Talley as Cherubino, and Jared Sanders as Count Almaviva.

Tina Fitch, director of Theater Tuscaloosa, will coach theatrical movement for the scenes, which will be performed in English rather than the original Italian.

The final part of the Showcase will focus on the musical theatre skills of the Shelton Singers. Musical numbers from shows both new and classic will be performed, from *Sweeney Todd* and *Jekyll and Hyde* to *South Pacific* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Featured soloists will be Kevin Beck, Ernest Cannon, Stacie Holland, and Charmin Richardson, while many of the Shelton Singers will have solo spots.

The Shelton Singers Showcase will close a season which has included a fall sacred concert, numerous Christmas concerts including Winter Graduation at Shelton State, a performance at the MLK Celebration, and a fully staged presentation of *God's Trombones* as part of the Realizing the Dream Series.

